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TO DEVELOP **P.2**

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今日北京

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MASTER OF THE SURREAL

MAO KAI ELEVATES ANIMALS TO THE LEVEL OF MAN IN HIS
HIGHER ANIMAL SERIES. HIS SURREAL ART IS AN ATTEMPT TO
EXPRESS EMOTION FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF A CHILD. **P.4**



北京青年报
BEIJING YOUTH DAILY

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FEATURE

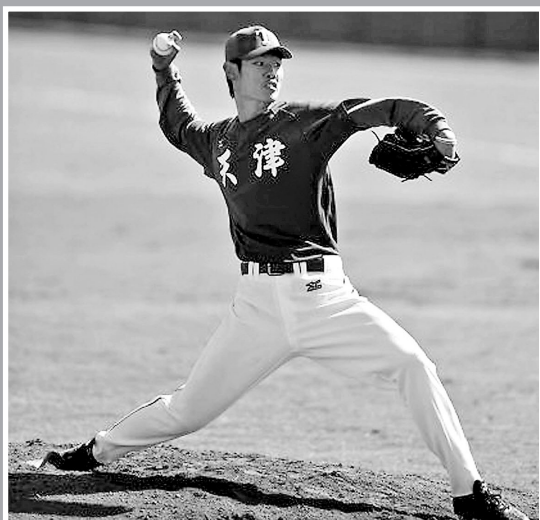


Photo by Xinhua Net



Photo by philadelphiasoul.com

New Sports Grow (Slowly) in China

BY SIMINA MISTREANU

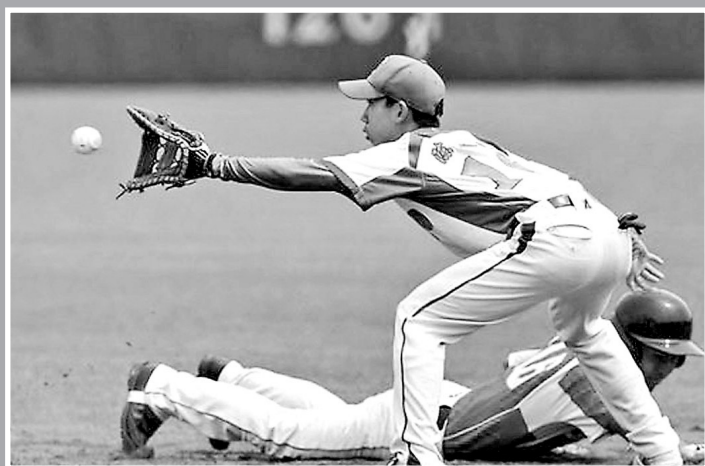


Photo by Xinhua Net



Photo by sport-asia.com

After basketball scored such great success in China – visible both in the number of basketball courts and in the National Basketball Association's sales – several other sports leagues have come to the Middle Kingdom to seek a foothold in its potentially huge market.

Major League Baseball (MLB), the Arena Football League (AFL) and the Ultimate Fighting Championship (UFC) have all expanded in China in recent years.

The organizations are setting up Chinese branches, holding events and working to grow a talent pool among Chinese youth. The first Chinese players are also being drafted by major teams, raising more local interest in the sports.

But the change is coming slowly.

After planning an inaugural season this fall, the China American Football League (CAFL) announced it would postpone its debut until the fall of 2016. The league is the brainchild of American businessman Martin Judge and rugby player David Niu.

The UFC actually tailored a whole season around China, with 12 episodes airing from December 2013 to January 2014. But this year, the organization skipped China, instead organizing events in other Asian countries such as Philippines, South Korea and Japan.

MLB opened a Beijing office in 2007 and has been slowly growing new players through its training centers. The organization is lobbying for the sport to be introduced in schools' physical education curricula, but a breakthrough appears to be a long way off.

Baseball

Leon Xie, managing director of MLB China, kept a list of all his professional friends who questioned his career move in 2009. They said baseball was an "alien" sport, destined for obscurity in China.

The country only had three major baseball diamonds, one of which – the 2008 Olympic stadium – was bulldozed to make way for a mall. And even though the sport used to be popular in Chinese colleges in the first part of the 20th century, the Cultural Revolution practically erased it from memory.

Today, Xie sends his friends emails with every new field, partnership and inroad the sport is making into China. In the eight years it's been present here, the MLB has helped train the national team ahead of the Beijing Olympics; negotiated the airing of baseball games on 10 television channels; launched ad campaigns and developed a baseball reality TV show.

But the league's main challenge is to raise talent, Xie told *Newsweek*. The game is now taught at 120 primary schools and at three MLB development centers in Jiangsu province. The organization also sponsors Beijing's college league.

Several colleges around the country have baseball teams. The 2009 documentary *Diamond in the Dunes* featured a Uygur-Chinese mixed baseball team at Xinjiang University and their attempt to defeat the Qinghai Tibetan College baseball team.

Jim Small, MLB vice president for Asia, said during a press conference in April that he hoped one of the league's development centers would train a star baseball player within five years – a base-

ball equivalent of Yao Ming.

In July, the league announced that the Baltimore Orioles signed Shenzhen-native Xu Guiyuan to a 2016 minor league deal – the first Chinese export to come from the training centers. From there to widespread popularity is a long road, but the league says it's willing to walk it one step at a time.

"We are doing things consistently, and from grassroots," Small said, according to Xinhua.

Football

Unlike baseball and basketball, American football doesn't have a long history in China. That didn't deter Martin Judge, owner of the arena football team Philadelphia Soul, from dreaming up a big future for the sport in China.

"It's possible that someday the CAFL could be bigger in China than the NFL is [in the U.S.]," Judge told *Forbes*. "In China there are 1.4 billion people, four times the number [in the US].... With the backing of the Chinese government, the sky is the limit for how we can grow American football in the vast, untapped Chinese marketplace."

Judge said arena-style American football suits Chinese viewers better than regular football because of its faster pace and higher scoring. CAFL was expected to launch in September, with six teams in two conferences. The teams were going to be based in major cities and include both Chinese and American players.

Each franchise owner was going to invest \$10 million per team and receive a share of TV licensing rights.

In developing CAFL, Judge tapped Edward Wang, the first player with full Chinese ancestry to play in the National Football League. Wang, who played for the Buffalo Bills, recently moved to Beijing to train players and help with management of the new league.

But earlier this year, CAFL announced it would postpone the inaugural season until the fall of 2016 "in order to lay a solid foundation for the launch of the" league.

Mixed Martial Arts

The UFC also looked for gold in China. The mixed martial arts promotion company produced its fourth international season in the country. The episodes aired on Liaoning Television from December 2013 until January 2014, with the finale taking place on March 1, 2014 at Macau's Cotai Arena.

While the players were mostly newcomers – thus flying under the radar of the game's aficionados – the fights were among the most entertaining of the year, some said.

China's mixed martial arts players often come from poor rural communities. Many endure years of struggle and deprivation as they train to achieve their dreams. But for them as well as the UFC the promise of success in China's market makes it worthwhile.

"The UFC is like every other sports league in the world – they see enormous financial possibility in China," author Jonathan Snowden told AFP. "What they see are more than a billion possible customers. That's very alluring."

Nevertheless, this year, UFC focused on exploring new Asian markets such as Philippines and South Korea, leaving China behind, at least for the moment. ■

MUSIC



Thanks: The Band of Engineering Graduates

BY DIAO DIAO

One doesn't usually associate Chinese engineering schools with indie rockers, but that's exactly where Thanks was born.

Wang Hongyan, the founder, vocalist and rhythm guitarist of Thanks, was a 19-year-old freshman at Beijing University of Civil Engineering and Architecture in 2011 when he founded the band with his classmates.

A typical boy born in the 1990s, Wang was given a cassette repeater when he turned 11. "Everyone my age owned one. My parents bought it for me to learn English, but I bought many tapes and used it to listen to music," Wang says.

At that time, the most popular band was the Korean pop group H.O.T. But

Wang quickly moved on to discover Jay Chou, Eminem and classic rock bands like the Eagles.

Inspired by his tapes, Wang spent 200 yuan on his first Kapok guitar and began learning music in middle school. He made his first attempt at a band in high school, when he and a few other students met to play covers of "Hotel California" and other famous songs.

In college, Wang thought it was time to try something different. Wang formed a new band with one of his friends and started writing his own music.

Thanks always had four members, but the lineup went through a big change when post-graduation plans pushed out the drummer and bass player in 2014.

Zhao Chen, the current bassist of the band, joined after seeing the band at School Bar. He also brought along Li Jian, the current drummer and a student at another university.

Zhao Yihan, the other remaining founding band member, got his musical start on a roommate's guitar while at university. His brother bought him his first guitar and took him to rehearsal.

"I thought it was funny at first. I knew nothing, and I watched them play and stop repeatedly. As I practiced more, I started to learn how rehearsals work," Zhao said.

When the first two members left, Zhao felt the difference between a band of friends and a band of strangers.

"It feels different to have new people with us who joined us by advertisement," Zhao said. "But we've had time to become friends with Zhao Chen and Li Jian, and now we all know each other well."

Wang and Zhao Yihan said the best thing about being born in the 1990s is having parents who can encourage their art. As engineering students, the men believe their musical advantage lies in determination and quality control.

That attitude has won them a lot of fans on the university circuit, where they played a graduation show in 2014.

One of their original songs, "I Don't Know," captures the angst of graduation in China. "I don't know how to sing, I don't know how to laugh; I don't want to suffer, I don't want to live the life that others think I should." ■



LIVE SHOW ROUNDUP

Beijing boasts one of the world's most vibrant indie music scenes. Support our local artists with a trip to one of this week's live performances!

Xiyuan Band @ Lanxi Bar

Xiyuan Band was founded in 2013 by keyboardist Guan Liuhe and drummer Zhang Bo. In 2014, fiddliest Hu Jian and keyboard player Jian joined. All members are fans of Yanni, who inspires their musical style.

January 2, 3:30-11:30 pm

183 Jiugulou Dajie, Dongcheng

79 yuan



Fuyin @ Jianghu Bar

Flamenco dancer Carmela, Indian dancer Sapna, Flamenco guitarist Lucas, Indian Tabla player Hadi, Chinese singer Hou Wei, and sitar player Ma Zheng and Flamenco cajon player Ilial are gathering at Jianghu Bar to create a dance party for the New Year.

January 2, 3-11 pm

7 Dongmianhua Hutong, Dongcheng

50 yuan (pre sale), 60 yuan (at door)

Liu Guangrui @ Hot Cat Club

Liu Guangrui and his band are performing at Hot Cat Club to celebrate the New Year. Liu is the vocalist and plays keyboard, Yang Yinan plays guitar, Tang Ge plays bass, and Meng Lei plays drums. They have released three albums: *Guangrui*, *Fall in Love* and *Come Back*.

January 2, 9-11:30 pm

46 Fangjia Hutong, Dongcheng

60 yuan (pre sale), 80 yuan (at door)



Longshendao Reggae Party @ Yugong Yishan

Founded in 2007, China's first reggae band, Long Shen Dao, is releasing its new 2016 album on January 2 at Yugong Yishan. Long Shen Dao has been the guest band for The Wailers China tour and found fame abroad at international music festivals in the UK, Netherlands and Canada.

January 2, 9-11 pm

3-2 Zhangzizhong Lu, Dongcheng

100 yuan (pre sale), 120 yuan (at door)

ARTISTS



Higher Animal 1

Surrealist Style Runs Through Mao's Painting

BY SHU PENGQIAN



Qianqian

People often assume the role of masters of all earthly beasts, with their tools and abilities to reshape the world.

But artist Mao Kai elevates supposedly lesser animals such as cows, horses, monkeys and rabbits to the level of man in his *Higher Animal* series. Each are depicted with long necks and human clothes.

This surrealist approach to expression is found in most of Mao's creations.

To Mao, art must be exaggerated. "It is mostly for the purpose of satisfying our need to express emotion," Mao said. "Therefore, artistic creations should be based on life and also surpass it."

Children are his primary creative models.

Because children have little experience with society's dark side, most remain pure and simple. The person they are born as will disappear gradually as they grow up.

"Obviously, children are better representatives of truth, beauty and kindness," Mao said.

His favorite works – *Trip of Pursuing Dream*, *Sea of Heart* and *Catch Childhood* – feature children in dominant roles. The three are tagged with implied meanings by Mao.

His *Trip of Pursuing Dream* series contains two paintings: one depicts a naked boy playing with a white tiger, and the other depicts a boy playing with a toy bow and arrow. Beside him is a peacock.

Based on the use of color and the layout, *Trip of Pursuing Dream* seems to describe a fairytale. Through this series, Mao emphasizes that "life is a trip": every person starts on his own journey at birth, and that journey will include many choices that may change its course.

In fact, the little naked boy in *Trip of Pursuing Dream* series is Mao's nephew, who was 4 years old in 2013 when the series was created.

"In order to persuade my nephew to strip naked, I had to lure him with a carrot and a stick," Mao said. "He didn't like the paintings because he thought his naked body was the focus."

Sea of Heart shows a foreign girl with blonde hair staring at a model ship in a bottle. Mao said the ship is a metaphor for pursuing dreams, and the girl is looking attentively as if she is speaking with herself.

Another painting, *Catch Childhood*, it themed as a recollection of the past and a human desire to return to happy moments.

Now, Mao is creating a new series – *Small Journey to the West*. So far, he has finished two paintings in this series.

The name of the series is borrowed from one of China's four classical novels, but the content is not about Xuan Zang or his disciples. Instead, the two completed paintings in *Small Journey to the West* depict a little monk who is less than 10 years old. Mao said the character in *Small Journey to the West* will change according to his inspiration.

Mao's road to painting and pursuing his dream has not been smooth.

After the National College Entrance Exam, Mao was rejected by his desired art college and had to study decorative art at Central South University. After graduating in 1996, Mao found a job in advertising. But his desire to become a painter grew stronger with age. He began painting every night after work to build himself a ramp to the art world.

But his years in advertising are not years of regret: Mao said they helped inspire him and develop a style of painting quite different from realist traditions.

"People's pursuits vary with age," Mao said. "When I was young, I had to struggle for life. But I am 41 this year, and it's time for me to consider how to demonstrate the value of my life." ■



Small Journey to the West - Play



Trip of Pursuing Dream 2



Catch Childhood



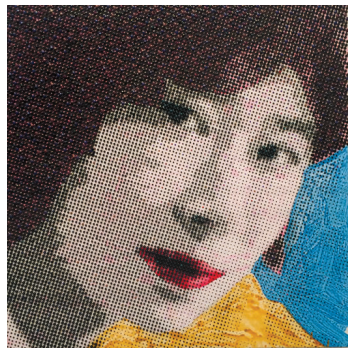
Wonderland

A TRAVEL



798 Makes Room for Art and Kitsch

BY SIMINA MISTREANU



In the northeast of Beijing, just inside Fourth Ring Road, is 798 Art Zone. To reach it from the nearest subway station, you pass through the Dashanzi neighborhood's residential area, made of rows of modest blocks of flats, with Chinese street merchants selling meat, fish and vegetables.

The art zone itself spans 10 blocks between Wanhong Road and Jiuxianqiao North Road. Once you're in it, the scenery changes abruptly. Modern statues of flying pigs, caged red dinosaurs and oversized nudes decorate the space in front of buildings. The contours of industrial facilities, pipes and overpasses emerge as you walk down the road.

German Factory Designs

The area's industrial history goes back to 1951, when the newly formed People's Republic of China established more than 150 joint projects with the Soviet Union to build factories around the country during the first Five-Year Plan. The Chinese government later decided it needed one more factory to produce electronic components for the military. The Russians didn't want to undertake an additional project, so they suggested the Chinese turn to East Germany.

Joint Factory 718 was built in Dashanzi, then a swath of farmland northeast of Beijing. The German architects opted for a Bauhaus design, which values a building's functionality rather than external embellishments.

In the late 1960s, the 640,000-square meter industrial complex was split into several sub-factories, of which the largest was Factory 798. During Deng Xiaoping's reforms in the 1980s, the factories gradually ceased production.

The area came back to life two decades later, when avant-garde artists began setting up shop. The first to move in was Beijing's Central Academy of Fine Arts, which opened several workshops in 1995. In the early 2000s, foreign artists joined in, opening projects such as Timezone 8 Art Books and Beijing Tokyo Art Projects.

Revival and Commercial Disputes

For a few years, 798 was an artist's dream space – a neighborhood with affordable rent, away from downtown, where artists could set up their studios. The new galleries reinterpreted the industrial setting, often preserving the original designs and decorations such as painted slogans from the Cultural Revolution.

But by 2005 rent prices started skyrocketing, and many of the original artists could no longer afford their studios. The rent hikes also affected independent galleries.



Photos by Simina Mistreanu

In a blog post written in 2012, Xu Yong, the manager of 798 Space, one of the district's oldest and most iconic galleries, detailed how the management company wanted to dramatically increase the rent at the end of his lease. The company eventually shuttered the gallery, according to *Global Post*.

Today, 798 Art Zone has the largest concentration of art galleries in Beijing, which are interspersed with artsy and upscale restaurants and cafes. The industrial architecture still sets the area apart, though at times the artistic interventions are overbearing, leaning toward kitsch – such as the robot made of mechanical parts, which is pointing toward the entrance of a D Park museum.

But unlike other artistic areas such as New York's SoHo and London's Brick Lane, which grew out of the city and are living, breathing components of it, 798 is isolated from its surroundings. If New York's High Line, a suspended railway turned park, has become a beautiful and unobtrusive addition to its neighborhood, 798's abandoned factories along with the many sculptures and colorful buildings look more like an amusement park.

Nevertheless, 798 is worth seeing especially because its galleries host solo exhibits of young Chinese and international artists. It's also a place where you can enjoy a good coffee or a meal.

Faurschou Foundation

This season's star exhibit at 798 Art Zone is Yoko Ono's first solo exhibit in Beijing, *Golden Ladders*. The exhibit will be hosted at the Farschou Foundation gallery until July 2016.

Ono's installation includes golden ladders made of different materials. She invites visitors to add their own and determine their "entrance to the future."

Ullens Center for Contemporary Art

Ullens Center for Contemporary Art is one of the largest galleries in the art district. Operated as a non-profit by Guy and Myriam Ullens, the center aims to host exhibits that highlight the cultural situation in China.

The center currently displays the *ME/WE* video installation by artist Li Ming. Li has laid asphalt onto the museum floor, from which visitors can watch a video projection of people running, and approach a blinking installation that turns from "ME" into "WE" as you get closer. The gallery is also hosting sculptural installations by Haegue Yang.

Beijing Tokyo Art Projects

Beijing Tokyo Art Projects is one of the district's earliest galleries, opened in 2002 by the founders of Tokyo Gallery in Japan. The building's high arched ceilings have now become synonymous with 798 Art Zone.

During its current exhibit, titled *The Great Darkness*, artist Gao Bo will move his studio into the gallery and create photography and other types of art together with visitors.

ACE Café

ACE Café 751 is a branch of ACE Café London, a venue that caters to bikers and rock music fans. The coffee shop, which was built on the site of the old 751 train station, stands out through its exquisite design. A historic steam locomotive is displayed outside, and a stainless steel wall gives the illusion that it rotates from the exterior to the interior.

Lord of Salt

For a hearty dinner, visit the restaurant Lord of Salt. Both the food and the design are as expected from a Sichuan restaurant in Beijing's art district. The food is tasty and spicy, while the room's centerpiece is a pink statue of Chairman Mao standing in front of a picture of itself. ■



ENTERTAINMENT



Mojin: The Lost Legend The Best of Tomb Films

BY DIAO DIAO



The ghoulish-themed *Mojin: The Lost Legend* broke Chinese film records within four days of its December 19 release.

With a box office take of 700 million yuan, *Mojin* trounced the similarly ghoulish-themed *Chronicles of the Ghostly Tribe*, which debuted on September 30 and took in 620 million yuan during its 90-day month run.

Mojin: The Lost Legend also achieved the highest box office sales of any Chinese 3D film on opening day, and film industry insiders expect it to set more records during the course of its run.

Directed by Wuershan and adapted from Guichuideng by Tianxia Bachang, *Mojin* tells the story of three people's adventure into a tomb.

Hu Bayi (played by Chen Kun), Wang Kaixuan (played by Huang Bo) and Shirley Yang (played by Hsu Chi) are brothers and sisters of the same tomb master. The three were known as The Captain of Mojins during their years of tomb raiding.

Hu and Wang head to America with Shirley Yang. The two men can find no work other than selling what they stole from the tombs on the street. They are chased by immigration officers and end up going their separate ways after a quarrel.

Wang meets his former partner Laojin (played by Xia Yu), who tries to convince the three to explore another business. Wang, drunk and about to

refuse, spots a flower that grows at the boundary between the living and dead on the contract. The flower reminded him of a Ding Sitian, a girl Hu and Wang met in the past.

Wang signs the contract with Hongjie, the big boss, and returns to China to tell Hu and Shirley what he has seen.

When Wang's search for the flowers lands him in the tomb of the Awgu Prince of the Liao Dynasty, Hu and Shirley arrive to rescue him and the three begin working together.

As they move further into the tomb, they meet more dangers and difficulties. The story explores lessons of the past and how its characters learn to let go.

In the story, Hu Bayi and Wang Kaixuan were comrades in the Cultural Revolution. To capture the positive energy that many people had during that period, director Wuershan used yellow bulbs to give the scenes a golden cast. He also studied many actual tombs, their legends and other Chinese novels and films related to tomb exploration.

Chen Kun played Hu Bayi, the team's handsome leader, and Huang Bo plays Wang Kaixuan, the chubby comical foil. Hsu Qi played the only female team member – a cold character with black humor.

Xia Yu used to be a stage actor, but his performance as Laojin is completely different from the roles he became known for playing. ■

Web Writer's New Book Jiji Fu Jiji

BY DIAO DIAO

Wang Lu, a writer at Ifeng.com, regards himself as a person who doesn't know much about news. He writes freely and publishes often.

Critics said Wang's earlier words were extreme and filled with aggression. But to Wang's way of thinking, they were a result of poverty. Better earnings have tempered his tongue.

Jiji Fu Jiji, Wang's new book, is something of a semi-serious treatise on the secular world. Although the book con-

tains real stories, all are filtered through his headstrong viewpoint.

"I was bitten by a stray cat when I was feeding her. I wrote about it and was surprised when people told me that I shouldn't have risked my life to help something that can fend for itself. I think that's when I realized my thought process is very different," Wang said.

The book is full of similar argument fuel, where compassion or foolishness

depends on the eye of the beholder.

The book is divided into four chapters: Start, Observe, Group and Complain. Each has more than 10 short narratives.

Suyi, one of Wang's longtime readers, noted the book was "verbose," and that Wang seemed to write down everything that happened in his life – good or bad, positive or negative.

Even his biggest critics should find something they share in common with Wang this time, she said. ■



Photos by douban.com

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Q CLASSIFIEDS

LEARNING

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To learn more, and how to register, scan this QR code:



Self-Hypnosis and Meditations Workshop

If you have ever been curious about hypnosis, this two-day workshop is the time to try it.

Come to the beautiful Beijing Riviera Club House in Shunyi on January 9 and 10, a perfect time when many are struggling to keep their New Year's resolutions. Self-hypnosis is a wonderful tool to help you align your imagination and willpower to move in the direction you wish.

⌚ 2-6 pm, multiple dates

📍 Beijing Riviera, 1 Xiang Jiang Bei Lu, Shunyi

TRAVEL



Harbin Ice Lantern Festival & Snow Sculpture Expo

Harbin, popularly known as Little Moscow, is China's northernmost major city and the capital of Heilongjiang province. Historically, the city has had a lot of Russian influence, in particular after the Russian Civil War of 1918.

That influence remains visible in its architecture and foods. The world famous Harbin Snow Festival with its Snow Sculpture Park and Ice Lantern Festival (December 31 – mid-February) is a family treat not to be missed. The Siberian Tiger Park is a highlight of the festival, especially for children.

Harbin is at the same latitude as Montreal, and winter temperatures range from -10 C to less than -30 C.

On Day 1, travelers will check into the Hotel Shangri-La and have a meal of Dongbei specialties in Harbin. Then head out to watch winter swimming and diving groups on the frozen Songhua River. Enjoy the night scene of the Central Street. At night, join the Ice Sculpture and Lantern Festival.

On the second day, visit St. Sophia Cathedral, a former Russian Orthodox church in the center of Harbin. Tour the Safari Siberian Tiger Park with 200 free-roaming tigers and lions. Feed the cats with pheasants and chickens and watch them spring on their pretty. Warm up with lunch in a tropical-themed restaurant.

Depending on the trip, visitors may then see the Japanese Germ Warfare Experimental Base and World War II Far East Memorial Park, the Harbin Aquarium or Central Avenue in downtown Harbin.

Alternative hotels of similar standards will be used if any of the hotels mentioned in the itinerary is unable to provide enough accommodation.

⌚ 7 am-10 pm, multiple dates

💎 5,600 yuan

STAGE



National Dance Company of Ireland Presents Rhythm of the Dance

Rhythm of the Dance continues the legacy of Lord of the Dance and Riverdance with a performance that mixes Irish step dancing with live music and a smattering of Latin rhythm.

The show is an inspiring epic, reliving the journey of the Irish Celts throughout history. Using the modern art forms of dance and music, this richly costumed show marries the contemporary and the ancient.

Combining traditional dance and music with the most up-to-date stage technology, the show is a thousand-year-old story executed with all the advantages of the modern stage.

Rhythm of the Dance has heralded a new era in Irish entertainment, and is internationally rated as one of the most popular Irish step dance shows.

⌚ 7:30-9:30 pm, multiple dates

💎 180-1,080 yuan

☎ 18600208126

📍 China's National Center for the Performing Arts (NCPA), 2 Chang'an Jie, Xicheng

SPORT



Argentine Tango: New Beginner Series 2016

Beijing Bilingual Tango School is located in the embassy area of Chaoyang District, 10 minutes from Liangmaqiao Subway Station. It is the only tango school in Beijing that teaches in both Chinese and English. Students come from China, Germany, Italy, Belarus, Greece and the US and UK.

In addition to its than regular classes, the school holds regular practicas and milongas to help students improve and connect with the world of tango dancers.

⌚ 2-3:30 pm, Saturdays from January 9

💎 60-80 yuan

✉ 412143092@qq.com

📍 Maizidian Community Center

NIGHTLIFE



Les Booze

Les Booze is an inclusive and open event for queer women and their friends. The LGBT friendly Chill Bar and Friends provide a safe space for queer women and their allies to mingle, drink and connect with each other. The event is organized in collaboration with the Crossroads Centre, the Beijing LGBT Centre and LESDO app.

Come by every first Friday of the month, starting at 9 pm, at Chill Bar. Entry is free, and there's a special price on Tsingtao and Tiger beers, margaritas and mojitos for ladies all night.

⌚ 9 pm-2 am, multiple dates

💎 Free entry

📍 Funky, 6F, 8 Gongti Xi Lu, Chaoyang

12/31

Hollywood glam

NEW YEAR'S COUNTDOWN @X25
X25好莱坞星光跨年派对
#STOP THE CLOCK 2016

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W HOLLYWOOD

Count Down to 2016 with Hollywood Glam at X25

Sip, play and flirt to soulful, jazzy beats by Taozi and her brand in Hollywood style, and shake it to the beats of DJ Max AtLarge at X25, 25 floors above the city with a view of Chang'an Avenue.

The award-winning X25 is a chilled-out lounge at the top of Chang'an with a spectacular view of the city.

This is where local and international DJs mix original beats. It's an exclusive haven where you can mix and mingle with Beijing's cool and chic.

Rock the night and get a chance to win a two-night stay at W. Hollywood.

⌚ 8 pm-2:30 am, December 31

💎 100 yuan

📍 W Beijing Chang'an, Jianguomen/Beijing Railway Station

MUSIC



Blackwater Performance @ Paddy's

Visit Paddy O'Shea's on Thursdays for a night of traditional Irish music by Blackwater. Celtic night is always a blast at Paddy's, and this week Blackwater will perform from 8:30 until late.

⌚ 8 pm-midnight, multiple dates

✉ paddyosheasbeijing@gmail.com

📍 Paddy O'Shea's, 28 Dongzhimen Wai Dajie, Chaoyang

FOODS

'Tis the Season for Hawthorn Berries

BY WANG YAN

Photo by cq69



Photo by sina.com



Photo by CFP



Photo by belnail.com

Shanzha, also known as hawthorn berries, are among the most commonly used fruits in Chinese medicine. Since ancient times they have been considered one of the best medicines for strengthening the spleen, promoting digestion, relieving food retention and quickening circulation.

In Chinese medicine theory, the hawthorn berry is combined with other herbs to relieve indigestion, loss of appetite, infant diarrhea, dysentery, abdominal pain and postpartum blood stasis. In addition to its medical benefits, the fruit has a sweet-and-sour taste that's appealing to most people.

Its popularity in China has helped the hawthorn berry to find a place in many dishes and snacks. The most famous would be tanghulu, a candied kabob of the fruits.

Tanghulu is an Old Beijing snack of candied hawthorn berries on a kabob stick. Today it is widely available in most Chinese cities. Although tanghulu is traditionally made only of hawthorn berries, in recent years, vendors have been experimenting with cherry tomatoes, mandarin oranges, strawberries, blueberries, bananas and grapes.

Shanzha sticks were a popular snack in the 1990s. In the old days they were usually consumed during the holiday season. For the older generation, shanzha sticks covered in granulated sugar represent abundance and happiness. Many young people love shanzha with lotus roots. It is tasty and highly nutritious. The vivid color contrast between the white lotus roots and bright red hawthorn berries is both appetizing and appealing to the eye. Many Chinese restaurants in Beijing serve the dish, especially those that specialize in southern cuisine. It's also very easy to cook at home.

It is said that shanzha with pork is good for food stagnation, bloating and nausea. It's also considered helpful for patients who are dealing with high blood pressure, fatty blood or indigestion. The dish is only made with hawthorn berries and pork because popular tradition prohibits eating hawthorns with seafood or lemon flavors.

Hawthorn berry dumplings are not a normal dish in Chinese cuisine. People who hear of it for the first time often feel uncomfortable with the idea of stuffing dumplings with hawthorns. However, the dish is gaining popularity among young diners – especially those trying to lose weight. Hawthorn berry dumplings are considered a healthy, low-calorie alternative to more traditional fillings. ■

MAKE YOUR OWN WITH THIS RECIPE

Learn to Make Shanzha Lotus Roots

BY WANG YAN

The increasingly popular hawthorn berry and lotus root dish is easy to make at home. The simple recipe will walk you through preparing your own at home.

Ingredients:

- ☐ 2 lotus roots
- ☐ handful of hawthorn berries
- ☐ 1 tsp granulated sugar
- ☐ osmanthus sugar

Photo by sbar

The Steps:

1. Cut hawthorn berries in half and remove the seeds.
2. Fill a wok with water and add the hawthorn berries to the pot. Boil them over a high flame and add some granulated sugar.
3. Reduce to a medium flame and remove the hawthorn berries. They should easily mash into a paste. Reserve for later use.
4. Remove the skin of lotus roots and slice them. Boil the lotus roots until they soften slightly. Stuff the shanzha paste into the holes of each cooked lotus root. Arrange on a serving plate and garnish with osmanthus sugar.

Dine at Tuye Restaurant

BY WANG YAN

Tu'er Ye is a rabbit god character mentioned in *The Investiture of the Gods*. He is most associated with worship of the moon. Tu'er Ye is a popular Beijing symbol and a traditional toy in Beijing culture.

Given that background, it's not hard to guess that Tuye Restaurant specializes in Old Beijing cuisine. Its two Beijing branches are popular on the restaurant review site Dianping with 5-Star ratings from patrons.

The restaurant's decor is a big selling point. The entrance has a giant Tu'er Ye statue and smaller ones on each table. The interior furnishings are all wood, as is typical of Old Beijing restaurants.

One of the most popular orders at the restaurant is peach blossom shrimp. The crispy fried shrimp have a light taste of peach blossom, which is appealing to many customers.

Peas with braised beef is another popular order. Priced at 58 yuan per dish, customers on Dianping say it is worth the money.

If you want to dine at a Beijing style restaurant and are interested in the stories of Tu'er Ye, it would be hard to recommend a more appropriate venue. ■



Photos by dianping.com

Tuye Restaurant

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